

\$2

JUNE 14, 2024 | VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 13

YOUR PURCHASE BENEFITS THE VENDORS.
PLEASE BUY ONLY FROM BADGED VENDORS.

A tale of two shelters. **page 6**



MEET YOUR
VENDOR:
**DENISE
SHEARER**
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GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY



Association
Football Club
shows Ann
Arbor that
everyone
belongs in
“the beautiful
game.” **page 7**

AFC-AA women's coach Kevin Taylor gives his team advice before the start of the second half in a 3-1 victory over the Cleveland Force, May 24.



THIS PAPER WAS BOUGHT FROM

venmo



@groundcovernews, include vendor name and vendor #

2024 VISUAL ARTS CONTEST

GROUNDCOVER NEWS STAFF

This summer, Groundcover News is not limiting our arts activities to the weekend of the Ann Arbor Art Fair.

The first ever Groundcover News Visual Arts Contest is officially live, and we need your help determining the popular winners! We accepted art submissions from homeless/low-income artists in four categories: photo, drawing, painting and mixed media. There will be two winners per category: a juried winner (\$250 cash prize) and winner by popular vote (\$200 cash prize).

Photography submissions are featured in this issue of Groundcover, along with a QR code that leads to the online ballot. Our June 28, July 12 and July 26 issues will feature drawing, painting and mixed media, respectively. Readers can vote for all categories at the same time. Just look for the colorful frame insignia on the cover of

the next three issues.

For the next eight weeks, Groundcover readers are encouraged to follow along with the contest by buying consecutive issues of Groundcover News, visiting the gallery displays at the AADL and Makeshift Gallery, and voting for your favorite pieces — online or in-person.

Popular vote will be calculated based on online votes and in-person gallery votes combined. One vote per individual.

The panel of judges choosing the jury winners is composed of artists representing different facets of the Washtenaw County arts scene: T'onna Clemmons, Barry Chatillion, Denali Gere and Ria Daugherty. These judges were hand selected by the production committee because of their arts expertise and committment to community!

Special thanks to the Ann Arbor Art Center, the Ann Arbor District Library, the Makeshift Gallery artists and donors for making this possible.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

June 20 - July 22: All submitted artwork will be on display at the Ann Arbor District Library downtown branch. In-person voting open.

July 24 - September 1: All submitted artwork will be on display at the Makeshift Gallery at 407 E Liberty St. in downtown Ann Arbor. In-person voting open.

Sunday, July 28, 12-2 p.m: We will launch the Makeshift showcase with musical performances, coffee, snacks and words from the artists.

August 5: Online and in-person voting closes.

August 9: Winners announced.

Follow @groundcovernews on Instagram and Facebook to follow arts contest programming throughout the summer!



PROVIDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-DETERMINED INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED BY POVERTY, **PRODUCING A STREET NEWSPAPER** THAT GIVES A PLATFORM TO UNDERREPRESENTED VOICES IN WASHTENAW COUNTY, **PROMOTING AN ACTION** TO BUILD A JUST, CARING AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY.

GROUNDCOVER NEWS

Groundcover News, a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in April 2010 as a means to empower low-income persons to make the transitions from homeless to housed, and from jobless to employed.

Vendors purchase each copy of our regular editions of Groundcover News at our office for 50 cents. This money goes toward production costs. Vendors work selling the paper on the street for \$2, keeping all income and tips from each sale.

Street papers like Groundcover News exist in cities all over the United States, as well as in more than 40 other countries, in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of homeless people and combat the increase in poverty. Our paper is a proud member of the International Network of Street Papers.

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Size	Black/White	Color	Dimensions (W x H in inches)
1/8	\$110.00	\$150.00	5 X 3 or 2.5 X 6.5
1/6	\$145.00	\$200.00	5 X 4
1/4	\$200.00	\$265.00	5 X 6.25
1/2	\$375.00	\$500.00	5 X 13 or 10.25 X 6.5
full page	\$650.00	\$900.00	10.25 X 13

PACKAGE PRICING

Three Months/Six Issues: **15%** off
Six Months/Twelve Issues: **25%** off
Full Year/Twenty-four Issues: **35%** off
Only run for two weeks/one issue: **40%** off
Additional **20%** discount for money saving coupons

MEET YOUR VENDOR



Denise Shearer, vendor No. 485

Where do you usually sell Groundcover News? On Main Street in front of Your Media Exchange that sells DVDs, CDs and tapes and media stuff.

When and why did you start selling Groundcover News? A couple of years ago I think. And I wanted to help myself and help the community and have my own money.

What is your favorite thing to do in Ann Arbor? I like to sell Groundcover, I like to go to Sonic Lunch and I like to look at artwork.

What is the best thing about selling Groundcover? I help myself and the community at the same time. I get to earn my own money which is something that helps everybody.

If you could do anything for a day, what would it be? Go to Frankenmuth.

If you had to eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be? Hot dogs and chicken noodle soup.

What is your superpower? I like to walk.

What are your hobbies? Writing and drawing and coloring.

What changes would you like to see in Washtenaw County? People not being rude, and better customer service.

What would be the first thing you'd do if you won the lottery? Buy some clothes.

What song do you have completely memorized? Joy to the World, the Christmas song.

Truth or lies: Winter

A warm soul with a radiating smile. I would always see this young lady rolling in her chair down the street when my truck broke down and I started walking to get around. Every time I saw her in the street, she was either rolling in the same direction I was walking or rolling towards me. I often wondered, where did she live? How far did she travel going to Walmart? I would think inside of my head that she is a strong young lady. I know she can't walk. Her chair is raised in the air, and her legs are stretched out. However, she never let her circumstances hold her down. You could see the resilience in her. Winter would always wave her hand and smile.

One particular day I was getting off work and driving with my son in the car. I saw her sitting in the middle of the sidewalk. I pulled over and spoke to her because she was on my block. Now I could find out where she lives. My son asked her if she needed any help. Winter said her battery was dead. She just



FELICIA WILBERT
Groundcover vendor No. 234

needed to be pushed over one hump in the sidewalk. I parked my car. Me and my son got out to assist her. As we started pushing, her 16-year-old daughter came to help.

Winter started telling us how she had five days to move. I asked her why and what happened. She said that her apartment was not handicap-equipped; how she cannot get up and down the stairs in her apartment. When she got a lawyer from legal aid, they informed her she had been served an eviction and had to move out in five days.

I looked at her chair. The left tire was ripped almost into shreds. I

wondered how the chair was rolling. I asked her if Medicaid would give her a new chair. Winter said she had gotten the chair when she was living in Kentucky. Here in Alabama, Medicaid would not replace her chair or fix it. Her daughter was pushing with my son. The chair hit the hump and she flipped over! With all the strength we could muster, the three of us picked her up and put her back on her chair.

She was embarrassed, however I assured her there was no need to be embarrassed. I explained to her that we are all here to help one another. We continued pushing her home. The sidewalk was cracked up and missing pieces. There was only a makeshift kind of ramp covering the broken sidewalk so she could roll into the house — the house that is not handicap-equipped for her chair or her.

After meeting Winter, I could only feel sorrow and shame. Is the world we live in so greedy and uncaring that people really have to live like this?

Six years since my world was shattered

TABITHA LUDWIG
Groundcover vendor No. 360

How am I doing just six short/long years after my sister's murder? I can honestly say I am handling it a lot better. But am I completely better? No, of course not. I know I will never be completely over it.

I think about my sister every single day. I sit and find myself wondering, what would she be doing right now if she was still here? I completely believe her ghost is always with me. I still hate Carla Cole for taking my sister, my best friend, my mom, my protector, away from me. I hate that my sister is gone. But I have a necklace with her ashes inside of it, so I will always have a piece of her.

I was able to go to her grave site and see her this year on her birthday. So even though the days are getting better (to be able to cope) that don't mean I don't think of my beautiful sister every day. I try my best not to dwell over what happened because she can't rest in peace if I'm constantly dwelling over what happend. I only listen to songs for her once in a while. And



Crystal and Tabitha

know that you're not in pain anymore. And you're now able to look over all of us that you love and care about and be our angel. And I just know that is what you're doing.

You was the best big sissy I could have ever asked for. I don't want to ever think of what I would have been without you. Thank you for always being there for me when I needed you the most. I love you and I miss you so much. I know you're looking down and very proud of me right now. You will forever be missed. Please rest in peace, I miss your whole face.

Love,
Your little sister, Tabitha.

Nonpolice rapid response

On one of the chat apps there is a group called "Non-police Rapid Response." The 41 members of the chat are neighbors, community activists and radicals who attempt to respond to community emergencies in a manner somewhat reminiscent of a volunteer fire department. What the NPRR seeks to accomplish is to respond to 911-level crises for the street community. The crises could be violent conflicts, campers who are being evicted by police, or first aid and mental health emergencies. In its infancy, NPRR did not have the capacity to respond to emergencies until recently.

Many of the members are involved in homelessness solidarity activism where there is a lot of need for camping assistance, propane, clothing and other basic life needs. These kinds of calls are routine.

A call was made to Pastor Anna Taylor-McCants of FedUp Ministries on Saturday May 4 by a local business owner. Someone experiencing homelessness was on her doorstep threatening suicide.

Here is the chat app conversation: Anna: Anyone available to rapid respond to a business owner in Ypsi who just called me with a suicidal man in her shop? I'm at least 15 minutes away.

Blue*: where's the business? Anna: A2 Vintage, Michigan and Washington.

Red: I'm available, feel free to DM. Orange: Same.

Anna: How close are y'all? If you can go there, that would be amazing. Will DM.

Yellow: I can be there in 15 minutes.

Blue: I think I'm too far away at the moment, looking at the map. I'm also about 15 minutes away, and I have to wait here for a second.

Orange: I could be there in the next 10.

Anna: you're all so amazing! Red, please call for backup, and Orange or I will join you.

Green: Wow, this is beautiful. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered. This is exactly what I hoped would happen with this group chat. Sending y'all and the person in question lots of warmth and good vibes.

Anna: I'm on my way too. Was waiting for someone to pick up bikes at my house. Thanks for going, and for all y'all who are willing to go. Backstory on this particular business owner. They seem to be good people who care about those in our marginalized street community who they have a relationship with anyway.

This was the first time someone from



JIM CLARK
Groundcover vendor No. 139

the general community reached out to the NPRR chat to call in an emergency. The members represent community organizing groups like FedUp, Growing Hope and Care-Based Safety to name a few. The NPRR hopes to be an alternative for the community's vulnerable population, calling for compassion and peer-based care instead of calling the police.

Anna tells the group, "They [the local business owners] feel pretty abandoned by all the powers that be in the community. Pastorally, I hear that and feel it deeply with all the businesses. The City of Ypsi has failed so many people lately."

She adds that while we are aware that our folks on the street have issues and challenges, we also know that our community is better when everyone is thriving.

"We're here to support everyone and reduce harm everywhere."

Here are the last communications on the chat:

Anna: The owner just texted me that [Red] got there, and I'm so thankful. There will be so much more of this throughout the summer. So it's nice to know our team will have a place to turn when we need reinforcements. It's going to be a beautiful summer!

Yellow: standing by in case another person would help. FYI.

Red: Things are definitely under control. Thanks, y'all.

Kelly Callison has been the proprietor of a2vintage for over 10 years. Earlier that Saturday a man came into the store and struck up a conversation with Kelly. They talked about music and culture for a few minutes then he said goodbye.

A few minutes after he left, it started to rain. The man came back, Kelly assumed because of the rain. He approached her and asked if she knew of any mental health resources. He began tearing up and said he was contemplating suicide. Kelly offered him space to cry, vent, and process. She invited him into her sitting room and gave him water, company and reassurance.

"I didn't know what else to do at that point, so I called Pastor Anna of FedUp. A few minutes later a member of the chat showed up and together we



Posted on MPD150.com

talked, laughed and played games," said Kelly. "The man somehow came here from another city where all his personal possessions were being held by the police. Anna was able to take him to the places he needed to go to collect his things."

Kelly says she was happy to help. People come into her store all the time to talk and hang out. She stressed how important it is to watch out for each other in the neighborhood. "I am all about community, I do my part. I would like to see the other business owners step up," Kelly said.

A few days later another member of the chat was approached by a woman stranded in Ypsilanti. "Mary" was dropped off at St. Joseph's Hospital from Indiana, where she is from. She never explained how she got there, but her ride abandoned her. She was slightly disoriented and needed a bus ticket to get home. The problem was that she had no cash. The call went out on the NPRR chat at 10 a.m. By 4 p.m., an hour before the bus was due to depart, the members of the chat pooled \$125, bought the ticket and sent Mary home.

Local activists find that some members of the street community, people who are actively or formerly homeless, have had negative interactions with the police. Some have been incarcerated or are currently in the legal system. Often people on probation or parole do not want to be around police simply because their presence is triggering. Even though these people are not doing anything wrong, their fear keeps them from calling the police for help. Situations escalate, neighbors or bystanders call the police, people on the street seen as the problem regardless of their involvement or motives. Someone who is defending themselves from another individual experiencing a mental illness episode may get arrested for fighting. It is this breakdown in our community safety system the NPRR is trying to patch.

The group is still trying to decide how organized they should be and what kinds of emergencies they can respond to. At the core though, they agree the police/carceral system is obsolete. The reality is police and prisons disrupt the synergy of a community by dividing it as opposed to organizing it. It's time to stop the revolving door. Not just by replacing the door, but by tearing down the building to which it is attached.

There are successful models of community-based safety collectives. One example is the MPD150. Don't let the name fool you, the Minneapolis Police Department 150 is an activist group made up of a cross section of the demographics in Minneapolis. The primary purpose of the group is to push the police-free-communities discussion from reform to systemic change. The name of the group is based on a report titled "Enough is Enough: A 150-Year Performance Review of the Minneapolis Police Department." The group is not affiliated with the police department. Here are some suggestions they make about community-based safety:

1. An easy one: STOP calling the police when it's clearly unnecessary.
2. Get trained in first aid, crisis de-escalation and restorative justice.
3. Build community all the time, not just in times of trouble.
4. If you DO need police, go to them instead of calling them to you.
5. With mental health crises, remember to center the person in crisis.
6. Make a list of local services/hotlines you can call instead of the police.
7. Support organizations that really do keep our communities healthy.
8. Zoom in and find solutions where you are.
9. Engage in policy work that can prevent, rather than just punish, crime.
10. Dream bigger: there was a time

see **RESPONSE** next page ➡

FedUp Ministries grand reopening

From Ann Arbor to Ypsilanti, FedUp Ministries has been feeding low-income and homeless people, not only food to sustain life, but also food for thought and spiritual growth, while also providing employment and volunteering opportunities in our community.

Servicing the Washtenaw Community for four years, FedUp has now opened their ministries of presence in the heart of downtown Ypsilanti. Their first day of operation was June 3.

In the month of April, FedUp Ministries announced they had made an agreement with Growing Hope to rent the front space in the old bank at 16 S. Washington Street (now called Black Lives Matter Boulevard) which Growing Hope is using as a farmers' market and incubator kitchen. The agreement is that FedUp Ministries will rent the building to provide services for those in need of food, clothing, showers, laundry, bathroom, and more. FedUp will rent space for the summer on a trial basis to see how things turn out.

On June 3, 2024, FedUp Ministries opened its doors for free services that include (see schedule on next page):

- Church service
- Prepared hot meals: breakfast and lunch
- Showers
- Laundry
- Bathrooms
- Fun activities and more!

I got to speak to my friend Pastor Anna, and I asked her how she feels about serving the community in the heart of downtown Ypsilanti. She said, "It is exciting and there is a need for a 'third space' — your first space is your home, your second space is your work, and third is where you can come (without the expectation to have to pay money) in order to have a social space to



MIKE JONES
Groundcover vendor No. 113

belong; most people we serve can't afford to patronize local restaurants and bars to socialize. We want to create a space where people can get their basic needs met and have a community environment where all people feel welcome to come and be social and find a sense of belonging, which they might struggle to find elsewhere."

I asked her, how do you feel, and plan to adjust to serving the community five days a week versus 2-3 times a week, basically going from a part-time to a full-time operation? "We do usually work five to six day work weeks with our catering services, that helps with providing our free services to those in need, so we are used to working a full-time schedule, and I'm hoping this provides better scheduling structure for staff by having a base, and a daily routine, as we also continue to serve in a mobile capacity as well."

I wrapped up by asking: Is there anything else you would like the public to know? "I would like for people to know they can donate to our organization on our website:



<https://fedupministries.org/give>, please donate because these provided services are needed in our community."

As I continued to mosey around, I ran into kitchen team lead Caelan Saunders and one of the cooks, Todd Crawley, at FedUp Ministries. I asked both of them how the first day has been so far. Saunders said "... exciting to see all the people come by and enjoy themselves and get the food they need because I believe these services should be happening year round, so I'm really happy to be a part of getting this all set up for a fun hot summer." Crawley said, "This is the best job I ever had because I love to cook and serve the community." I then asked Crawley, "What is your favorite dish to dish out?" "Chicken wings," he said; "they are better than Buffalo Wild Wings."

So, there you have it folks. Free food, showers, laundry, bathrooms, Sunday worship, and other services and activities right there in downtown Ypsi.

FedUp Ministries Summer 2024 Schedule:

Sunday: Church Service 10 a.m. and food truck 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Growing Hope location, portable showers and bathrooms available.

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: Breakfast from 9-11 a.m. Lunch from 12-3 p.m. Portable showers and bathrooms available.

Every Wednesday: food truck will serve free lunch at Liberty Plaza at 12 p.m. in Ann Arbor and at the Ypsilanti Transit Center at 1:30-2:30 p.m.

➡ **RESPONSE** from last page

before police, and there will be a time after.

Community-based safety has been around in other forms: volunteer fire departments, neighborhood watch programs that include "safe zones" which are trusted neighbors whom kids can turn to for help.

I remember being in the safety patrol in elementary school. Our primary goal was to make sure our

peers were not hit by cars on the way home. We had structure, training, guidelines and leadership. Our purpose was simple and our method based on community response. Each volunteer was posted near their own home and would stand on the corner blocking students if there were cars in the intersection. We wore orange sashes to indicate our role. We had no authority, we were simply taking turns keeping each other safe.

There are many community-based safety organizations popping up around the country. Hopefully, with them will come the shift in consciousness necessary to replace our current justice system with something that works better — a system based on compassion and care as opposed to policing, control and oppression.

**Names have been changed.*

What's Happening at the Ann Arbor District Library

Open 10am–8pm Daily

Hang out in any of our five locations across town, browsing books, magazines, newspapers, and more, or check out movies, CDs, art prints, musical instruments, and home tools—you name it! Study and meeting rooms, fast and free WiFi, and plenty of places to sit and hang out.

The Summer Game

If you're reading this, the 2024 Summer Game has officially commenced! Use your Library this summer to find codes, solve puzzles, attend events, and earn points toward awesome AADL prizes. Visit aadl.org/play to learn more and get started!

Michigan Activity Pass

With a valid library card from any Michigan public library, you can print a pass to participating organizations, including museums and state parks, through the Michigan Activity Pass website. Some partners offer complimentary or reduced-price admission; others, discounts in their gift shop or other exclusive offers.

FEATURED EVENT

AADL AT A2SF

June 14–30 at Ann Arbor

Summer Fest: Top of the Park

AADL is thrilled to partner with the Ann Arbor Summer Festival to host a medley of performances and events for 2024, including family-friendly Kids Rock performances and Top of the Park editions of World Famous Trivia and Nerd Nite! Check out the full schedule of AADL events at aadl.org/a2sf.

A tale of two shelters

ROBBIE FEBRUARY
Groundcover contributor

Imagine being in a situation where you have no home, no place to feel safe, and on top of that, you're facing challenges just because of who you are. This is the reality for many transgender couples experiencing homelessness. We'll compare how two shelters, the Delonis Center in Ann Arbor and the Salvation Army Safety Dorms in Las Vegas, Nevada, support transgender couples.

The Delonis Center: Ann Arbor

The Delonis Center is like a big safety net for people without homes in Ann Arbor. It's run by the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County and offers meals, medical care and help finding permanent housing. They do their best to welcome everyone, but let's see how they handle the specific needs of transgender couples.

Inclusivity and Sensitivity: The Delonis Center aims to be welcoming to all, but imagine being in a place where people don't quite get your unique struggles. Transgender couples sometimes face discrimination or lack of

understanding from staff and other residents.

Housing Accommodations: Here's the tricky part. The Delonis Center has separate sleeping areas for men and women. This can be a big problem for transgender couples because it might mean they have to sleep apart, which isn't great for their emotional health.

Privacy and Safety: Everyone needs to feel safe, especially those who might be more vulnerable to harassment. The Shelter Association tries to provide private rooms for families, but there aren't always enough to go around.

Support Services: While there are case management and medical care, transgender individuals might need more specific help — like counseling for gender dysphoria or hormone therapy. These services are often not available or in short supply.

Salvation Army Safety Dorms: Las Vegas, Nevada

Now, let's travel to Las Vegas. The Salvation Army has set up special Safety Dorms for LGBTQ+ individuals, including transgender people. They've created a space specifically designed to be safe and supportive for this



Lynn and Sean

community.

Inclusivity and Sensitivity: The Safety Dorms are all about inclusivity. The staff here are trained to understand the unique challenges faced by transgender individuals and couples. This creates a much more welcoming environment.

Housing Accommodations: Unlike the binary setup at the Delonis Center, the Safety Dorms offer flexible housing arrangements. This means transgender couples can stay together, which is super important for their well-being.

Privacy and Safety: Privacy and safety are top priorities here. With private rooms and secure facilities, transgender residents can feel protected from harassment and violence.

Support Services: The Safety Dorms go above and beyond with specialized support services. They offer medical care, counseling, and even legal assistance tailored to the needs of transgender individuals. This kind of comprehensive support is crucial for helping them rebuild their lives.

Lynn and Sean: a transgender couple at the Delonis Center

Meet Lynn and Sean, a couple who found themselves at the Delonis Center in November 2023. Because of the gender-segregated sleeping areas,

see **SHELTER** page 8 ➡



Vote for your favorite photo and view submissions to the other three media categories online at linktr.ee/groundcovernews. Voting closes August 5!



Mike Jones



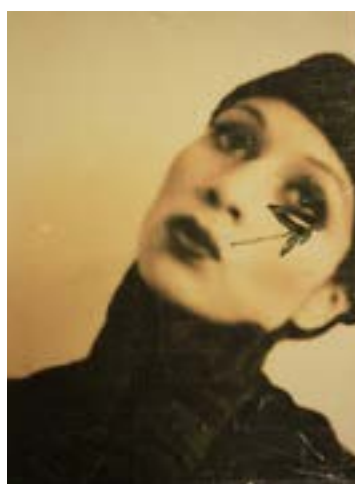
Hosea Hill



Cindy Gere



Joe Woods



Norma Jean Cisneros



Association Football Club shows Ann Arbor that everyone belongs in "the beautiful game"

Creating history is hard. Eliminating bigotry is difficult. The Association Football Club - Ann Arbor is proving both are possible, even exciting, wonderful and especially fun.

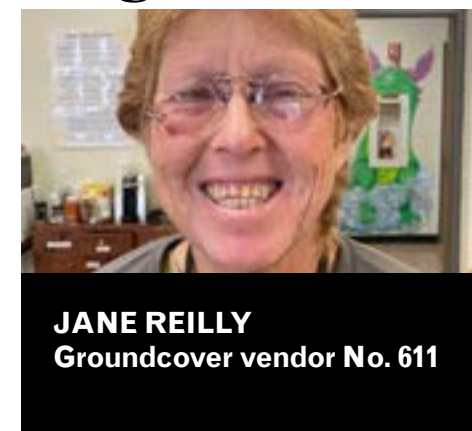
Jamey Amrine, one of the AFC-AA founders, said it is a community-based soccer club, focused on equity, justice and anti-racism. The men's team started in 2014, the women's in 2018. Both teams play in the Great Lakes Division of the United Soccer League, a national pre-professional league. The women play in USL W and the men, USL League Two. The USL wants to increase gender equity and provide opportunities to play, coach, officiate and work in soccer in a safe, inclusive manner, according to its website.

"As a white guy, I know about undue power and bias," Amrine said. "We try to challenge bias and figure out how to change things."

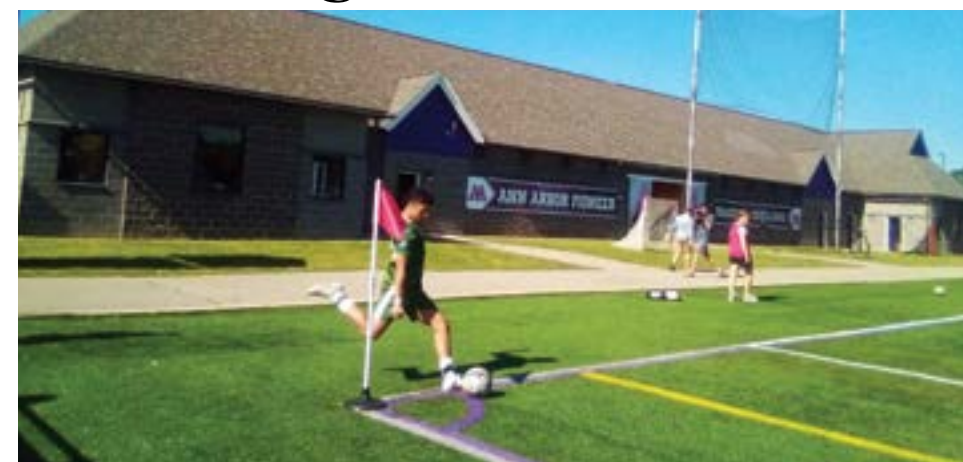
Some changes are unusual, such as risking a league fine for not playing the National Anthem because Francis Scott Key was a slave owner, or allowing Claire Cahalan to wear the captain's "C" on her right pride sock instead of her arm. AFC-AA midfielder Thiago Dos Santos wears his pride stripe on his left arm and a USL fourth official wears his on the right cuff of his red jacket.

Some innovations are major, like helping found the Anti-Racist Soccer Clubs Coalition in 2020 and Community Leadership Revolution Academy of Ypsilanti in 2021.

Some changes are local, like partnering with Food Gatherers, the University of Michigan Adaptive Sports and Fitness Program and the Humane Society on Father's Day June 16 for the women's match vs. the Michiana



JANE REILLY
Groundcover vendor No. 611



Top: **Orion McHugh** taking a corner kick in AFC-AA'S 1-0 victory over **Oakland County FC**. Bottom: (L-R) **Ami Komori, Chiara Premoli (standing), Yuliana Herrera, Lina Berrah, Emily Eitzman, Holli Brown (GK), Sydney Osgood, Sandra Pedersen**. Players from both AFC-AA teams meet with fans after every home game, weather permitting. Photo courtesy of the Eitzman Family.

Both coaches spoke in calm, neutral tones until the 90th minute, when both teams were striving for the winning goal. The fourth official said, "Be quiet, be quiet, be quiet," also neutral and calm. There were no physical fights or tantrums and rarely cursing in a game that featured some dangerous play on a field slick with light rain. There were eight yellow cards, four per side, and one red card to AFC-AA. Surprisingly, it was the AFC-AA fans that cursed a call during the women's first loss, 1-0 to Midwest United, June 2. Through June 3, the men are 2-1-2 and the women 3-1-1.

Some changes are financial, like free admission every game for 13-under and a \$2 ticket discount at the gate for fans who donate to AFC-AA community partners. AFC-AA donates \$2 for every ticket purchased online.

Some changes are historic. AFC-AA right defensive back Emily Eitzman, the Outreach Coordinator for the U-M Adaptive Sports Student Interest Group, was honored on Women and Girls in Sports and Community Day for starting the first amputee soccer program in Michigan in November 2023. The U-M Amputee Soccer team played a halftime exhibition at the AFC-AA

women's home opener, a 1-0 victory over Kalamazoo FC, May 19 at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School's Holloway Field. There was free admission for all who identify as women, girls and non-binary. The USL accepts transgender athletes. Midfielder/Forward Bridget Kopmeyer, 14, became the youngest player in Mighty Oak history to score a goal, May 29, a 3-1 victory over Michiana. Kopmeyer, a Pioneer sophomore in 2024-25, plays U-15 for Internationals Girls Soccer of Medina, OH, an Elite Clubs National League regional team. The previous youngest player was Eitzman, 17, in 2019.

"She's been selected to a national pool for her age group," AFC-AA coach Kevin Taylor said about Kopmeyer, who is very fast. "She's willing to do whatever needs to be done to be part of the team. When you come to a team like this, when everyone's a top player, the goal is to just come together as a team as fast as possible." Taylor, Asllani and opposing coaches are available to fans after each game, win or lose.

Jenna Trubiano, the U-M Women's Ice Hockey Club Coach, and

see **SOCCER** page 11 ➡



➤ SHELTER from page 6

they had to sleep apart. This separation added to their stress and made it harder for them to access the support they needed. Despite the center’s efforts, the lack of specialized services and understanding from some staff members made their stay challenging.

Lynn timer felt forced to misidentify to a gender that was not her own in order to stay with Sean. Safety was also an issue. Sean stated, “There were many times while staying at the Delonis Center where we felt unsafe. It felt that the staff were not listening to our concerns when we were often threatened by other guests.” Lynn timer continued this thought by saying, “When we were staying there, we couldn’t sleep. We were unable to exist without harassment for who we were. I was physically assaulted many times before I felt forced to fight back. My assailants were not punished, but when we stood up for ourselves; we were banned from Delonis.”

Lynn timer and Sean took to the streets from there. They are very thankful for MISSION helping them with daily tasks, food, showers, etc. They are hoping that past projects like the

“Lavender Project” return so that they can find temporary housing without social stigma and fear of violence.

Now, let’s time-travel back to 2022 and meet Lynn timer and Sean again at the Safety Dorms in Las Vegas. They found a welcoming and understanding environment where they could stay together. The flexible housing and specialized support services helped them feel safe and supported. With access to medical care, counseling, and legal assistance, they were able to start taking steps towards independence. Lynn timer had some good experiences there. She felt comfortable expressing herself and was able to find community in the dorms. Sean stated, “I felt comfortable in the safety dorms. I felt the staff were looking out for us. I was able to get identification and get a job with their help.”

Policy recommendations

So, what can be done to improve shelter options for transgender individuals and couples? Here are a few ideas:

Flexible Housing Arrangements: Shelters should adopt housing arrangements that respect the identities and relationships of transgender

individuals. This means more private rooms and non-binary accommodations.

Specialized Training for Staff: Staff should receive training to better understand and support transgender residents. This includes learning about gender identity and the unique challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community.

Comprehensive Support Services: Shelters need to offer services tailored to the needs of transgender individuals. This includes medical care, counseling, and legal assistance.

Inclusive Policies and Practices: Implementing inclusive policies can help create a safer and more supportive environment. This means having anti-discrimination policies and measures to prevent harassment and violence.

Community Partnerships: Shelters should partner with local LGBTQ+ organizations to enhance their support services. These partnerships can provide valuable resources and expertise.

The Delonis Center in Ann Arbor and the Salvation Army Safety Dorms in Las Vegas both aim to help people experiencing homelessness, but their approaches to supporting transgender

individuals and couples are quite different. The Safety Dorms’ focus on inclusivity, flexible housing, and specialized support services provides a more effective model.

By learning from these examples, other shelters can improve their services for transgender individuals and couples. Flexible housing arrangements, specialized training for staff, comprehensive support services, inclusive policies, and community partnerships are key to creating a more supportive environment. Let’s work towards a future where all individuals, regardless of their gender identity, can find a safe and welcoming place.



WASHTENAW COUNTY SUMMER COOLING SITES

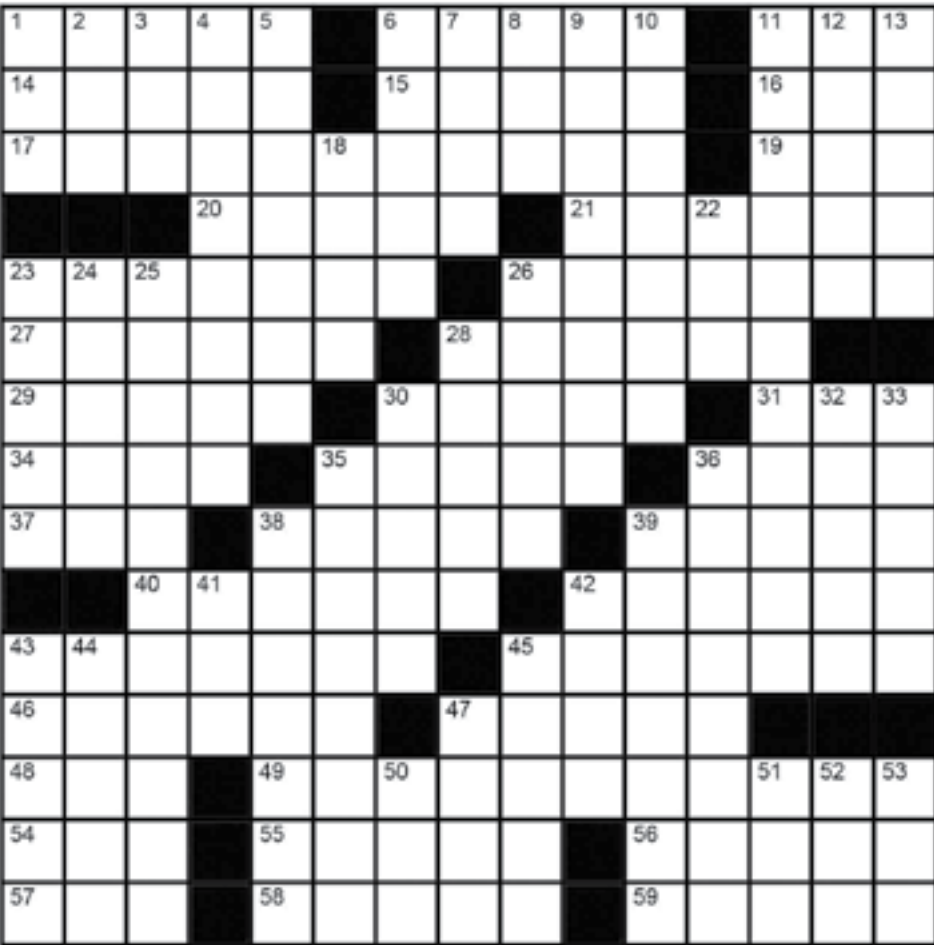
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Ann Arbor District Library (Pittsfield)	2359 Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor	734-327-4200
Ann Arbor District Library (Traverwood)	3333 Traverwood Dr., Ann Arbor	734-327-4200
Ann Arbor District Library (Westgate)	2503 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor	734-327-4200
Chelsea Library	221 S. Main St., Chelsea	734-475-8732
Dexter Library	3255 Alpine St., Dexter	734-426-4477
Manchester Library	912 City Rd. (M-52), Manchester	734-428-8045
Milan Library	151 Wabash St., Milan	734-439-1240
Northville Library	212 W. Cady St., Northville	248-349-3020
Saline Library	555 N. Maple Rd., Saline	734-429-5450
Salem-South Lyon Library	9800 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon	248-437-6431
Washtenaw County Human Services Building	555 Towner, Ypsilanti	734-544-6700
Ypsilanti District Library (Superior)	1900 Harris Rd., Ypsilanti	734-482-4110
Ypsilanti District Library (Whittaker)	5577 Whittaker Rd., Ypsilanti	734-482-4110

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CROSSWORD

from the International Network of Street Papers



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While Groundcover is a non-profit, and paper vendors are self-employed contractors, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following is our **Vendor Code of Conduct**, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

- Groundcover will be distributed for a voluntary donation. I agree not to ask for more than the cover price or solicit donations by any other means.
- When selling Groundcover, I will always have the current biweekly issue of Groundcover available for customer purchase.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper or selling past monthly issues.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers and refrain from wearing it or other Groundcover gear when engaged in other activities.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other

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- I agree to treat all customers, staff, and other vendors respectfully. I will not “hard sell,” threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor in downtown areas. I will also abide by the Vendor Corner Policy.
- I understand that Groundcover strives to be a paper that covers topics of homelessness and poverty while providing sources of income for the homeless. I will try to help in this effort and spread the word.

If you would like to report a violation of the Vendor Code please email contact@groundcovernews.com or fill out the contact form on our website.

ACROSS

1. Happening
6. Accommodate
11. Barbie’s beau
14. Wilkes—, Pa.
15. Biblical gift
16. Anger
17. To shorten a word
19. Adage
20. Correct, as text
21. Puddinglike dessert
23. Become attached
26. A type of gun dog
27. Arm —
28. Jump in
29. Choice food
30. Nonsensical
31. “___ lost!”
34. Enormous birds of myth
35. In a fitting way
36. ___ fruit
37. ___ Wednesday
38. Gray
39. Jack
40. Fancy trim
42. Hang around
43. “Joe ___”
45. Vacuum cleaners
46. Russian chess master
47. Cheese
48. Victorian, for one
49. Oil revenue
54. “___ alive!”
55. Dickens’s ___ Heep
56. Convex molding
57. Born, in bios
58. ___ bear
59. Australian slang for “Yank”

DOWN

1. “The ___ Daba Honeymoon”
2. Marvelous, in slang
3. Sun, e.g.
4. Solar system art
5. Pours metal
6. Nitrogen compound
7. Pair
8. “A jealous mistress”: Emerson
9. Immediately
10. Husky voice
11. Keeps livestock in
12. Clear, as a disk
13. Supports a winding staircase
18. Docs for dachshunds
22. Commercial prefix with vision
23. African capital
24. Pandemonium
25. An advertising slogan
26. Disgrace
28. Used for securing mooring lines
30. Arguments
32. Young eel
33. Layers
35. Burn treatment
36. Another name for gastropod
38. To spoon ice cream
39. African antelope
41. Babysitter’s handful
42. Forte
43. Coil of yarn
44. Bill of fare
45. Ado
47. Alum
50. Bolivian export
51. Chop (off)
52. Matterhorn, e.g.
53. “Winnie-the-Pooh” baby

Easy homemade pizza dough

ELIZABETH BAUMAN
Groundcover contributor

Ingredients:

1 cup warm water (110 degrees F)
1 (.25 ounce) package active dry yeast
1 teaspoon white sugar
2 ½ cups bread flour
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon salt



Directions:

Add yeast and sugar to the warm water. Mix and let stand until creamy, about 10 minutes.

Add flour, oil and salt to the yeast mixture and beat until smooth. You can do this by hand or use a stand mixer fitted with a dough hook to make it easier. Let it rest for five minutes.

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and pat or roll into a 12-inch

circle.

Transfer to a lightly greased pizza pan. Spread crust with sauce and toppings of your choice.

Bake in the preheated oven at 450 degrees until golden brown (15 to 20 minutes). Remove from the oven and let cool for 5 minutes before serving.

Topped with just cheese or some delicious fresh vegetables, this is delicious!

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

9	1	2	6	8	4	5	7	3
4	5	8	3	9	7	6	2	1
6	3	7	5	2	1	9	8	4
5	4	1	9	3	8	2	6	7
8	2	3	7	6	5	1	4	9
7	9	6	4	1	2	3	5	8
2	8	9	1	7	6	4	3	5
3	6	5	8	4	9	7	1	2
1	7	4	2	5	3	8	9	6

A	F	O	O	T		A	D	A	P	T		K	E	N
B	A	R	R	E		M	Y	R	R	H		I	R	E
A	B	B	R	E	V	I	A	T	O	R		S	A	W
					E	M	E	N	D			M	O	U
A	C	C	R	E	T	E		S	P	A	N	I	E	L
C	H	A	I	R	S		B	U	T	T	I	N		
C	A	T	E	S		S	I	L	L	Y		G	E	T
R	O	C	S		A	P	T	L	Y		U	G	L	I
A	S	H		S	L	A	T	Y		K	N	A	V	E
			P	I	C	O	T	S		L	O	I	T	E
S	C	H	M	O	E	S		H	O	O	V	E	R	S
K	A	R	P	O	V		G	O	U	D	A			
E	R	A		P	E	T	R	O	D	O	L	L	A	R
I	T	S		U	R	I	A	H		O	V	O	L	O
N	E	E		P	A	N	D	A		S	E	P	P	O

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